

10-1-1962

Robert L. Brackney to Mr. Meredith (1 October 1962)

Robert L. Brackney

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Answered 11/26/62

P.O. Box 123
Whittier, Calif.
10-1-62

Dear Mr. Meredith,

I have followed closely the events associated with your enrollment at the University of Mississippi... the regrettable show of force and the defiance of your Governor.

I have been interested in race relations for quite some time now, in fact since a similar uprising in Arkansas. I am a Caucasian, 20, betrothed to a Negro girl who lives in Meridian.

I regret that you were unable to walk onto the campus and register like anyone else, but what matters is that you ARE on the campus and HAVE smashed the antiquated barrier to Negro education in your state.

I want to express my confidence that things will soon calm down and that you will soon be regarded as a person and not as a "nigger". The same thing happened at the University of Georgia, as you know, and because of the patience of the two

students involved, they are now receiving (peacefully) a first-rate education at a fine school.

There may be attempts to provoke you into physical violence in order to hold the resulting show of force against you. I hope that this is not the case.

If this is not to end like the ill-fated Catherine Lucy affair, level-headedness and passive resistance of the first Order are mandatory.

I do hope you need not the charges of "Communist conspiracy" concerning the Court's decision. To label a thing "Communist" is but an expedient way of discrediting it and nearly all of the time such a charge lacks basis. Those who shout "Communism" and flout the law are only making a laughing stock of the United States and making difficult our rôle as champion of liberty, land of the free.

There are many who doubtlessly oppose Governor Barnett's actions, but who are silenced through fear of economic pressure. Accept good will on the part of many.

I trust you will find time to drop me a line. I should like to hear from you. Sincerely yours,
Robert L. Brackney